

Notes on Indo-Pacific Scleractinian Corals. Part 11.¹ A New Species of *Acropora* from Australia

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THERE ARE 371 NOMINAL specific taxa of the genus *Acropora*, 34 of which are fossil and 357 are recent. Of the latter no more than 150 probably are valid, the rest being either synonyms or unrecognizable. With such an overabundance of names it may seem supererogatory to propose yet another, but the new form described here is so different from any yet described that a new name is appropriate. It is based on a number of very small, twiggy pieces noted by the writer while examining ahermatypic corals of the Great Barrier Reef region in the collections of J.E.N. Veron at the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) in 1982. At first glance the fragments were ignored as they appeared to be delicate bryozoans, but further examination revealed an unusual *Acropora*.

The writer is indebted to Dr. Veron for permission to describe this new species. The SEM photographs were made by W. R. Brown, chief of the SEM Laboratory, Smithsonian Institution, of a specimen sent to F. M. Bayer.

Types and figured specimens are deposited in the National Museum of Natural History (USNM). Additional specimens are in the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS).

¹Numbers 1–10 of these notes were published in *Pacific Science* as nos. 1 and 2, vol. 13, pp. 286–290, 1955; no. 3, vol. 15, pp. 189–191, 1961; no. 4, vol. 20, pp. 203–205, 1966; nos. 5 and 6, vol. 22, pp. 274–276, 1968; no. 7, vol. 25, pp. 368–371; no. 8, vol. 26, pp. 183–190, 1972; no. 9, vol. 36, pp. 211–219, 1982; no. 10, vol. 38, pp. 205–219, 1985.

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FAMILY ACROPORIDAE VERRILL
GENUS *Acropora* OKEN 1815

Acropora cardenae n. sp.

Figures 1–5

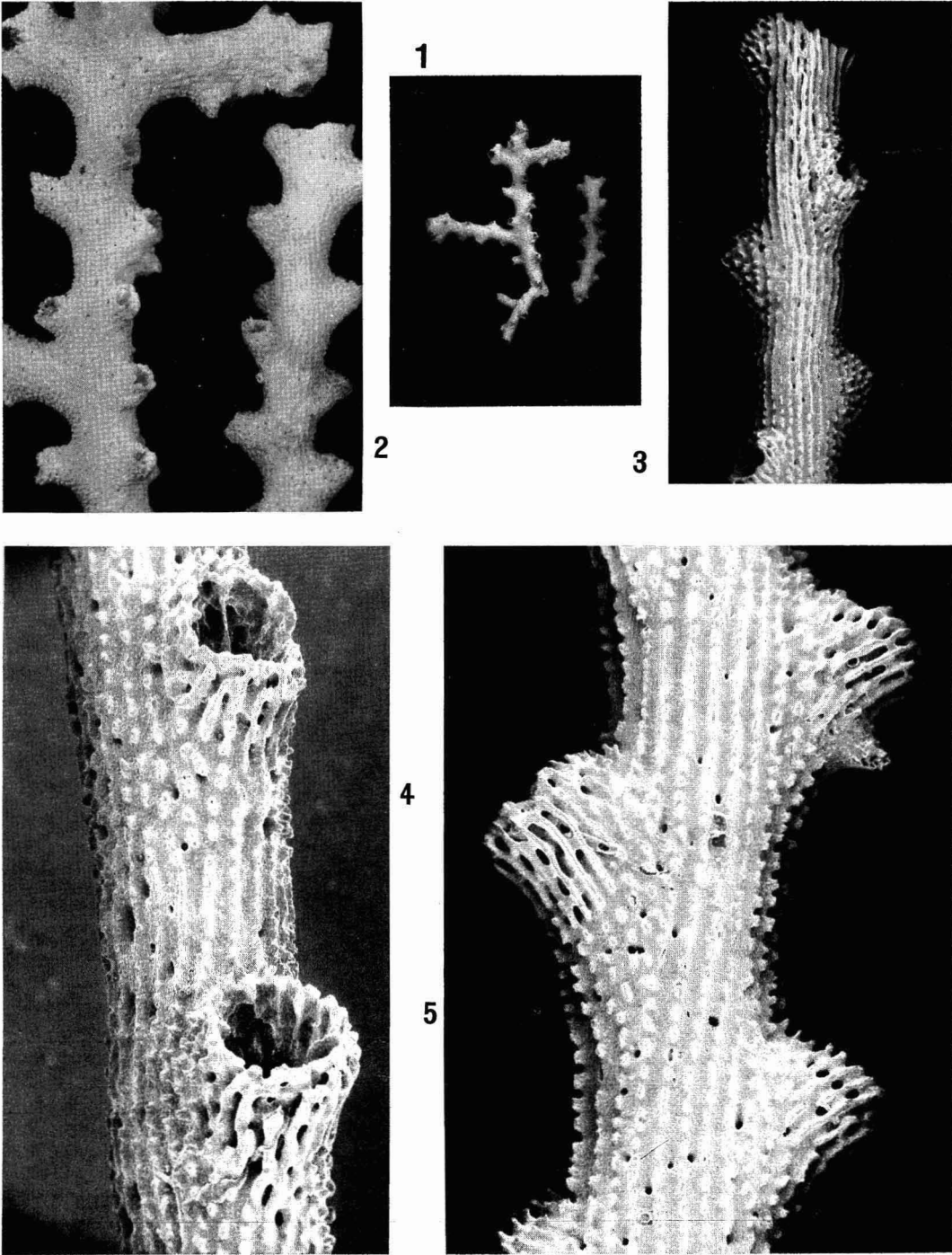
DESCRIPTION: Corallum small, consisting of slender twiglike branches 30–60 mm long, 1.5–2 mm in diameter, branching at nearly right angles. Axial corallites 1.5 mm, with six well-developed septa. Radial corallites 1 mm in diameter, subimmersed or short tubiform with six weakly developed septa deep in the calice, arranged sympodially in opposite, alternating rows. Costae represented by single series of slightly compressed spines arising from smooth coenosteum with occasional pores between them, especially near calices (Figures 4, 5), although on some branchlets the spines are nearly uniformly distributed, obscuring the costal series (Figure 2).

The very small slender branches with relatively widely spaced sympodial radial calices distinguish this species from any other described ones of which the writer is aware. With *A. cardenae* in the dredge samples from two sites are specimens of *Diaseris distorta* (Michelin), *Conotrochus bruneus* (Moseley), and a small *Alveopora*.

Named for Carden C. Wallace.

HOLOTYPE: USNM 72370; Paratypes: USNM 72371, 72372; Paratypes: AIMS.

OCCURRENCE: West of Bowl Reef, Great Barrier Reef (18°28' S, 147°33' E), ca. 60 mi northeast of Townsville, Queensland, 55 m, dredged by J.E.N. Veron; 8 mi east of Bowl Reef, 130 m, J.E.N. Veron.



FIGURES 1-5. *Acropora cardenae* n. sp., west of Bowl Reef, 55 m. Figures 1, 2: holotype and paratype, $\times 1$, $\times 4$, USNM 72370, 72372. Figures 3, 4, 5: paratype, SEM photos, $\times 5$, $\times 15$, $\times 15$, USNM 32371.